

400346-0300

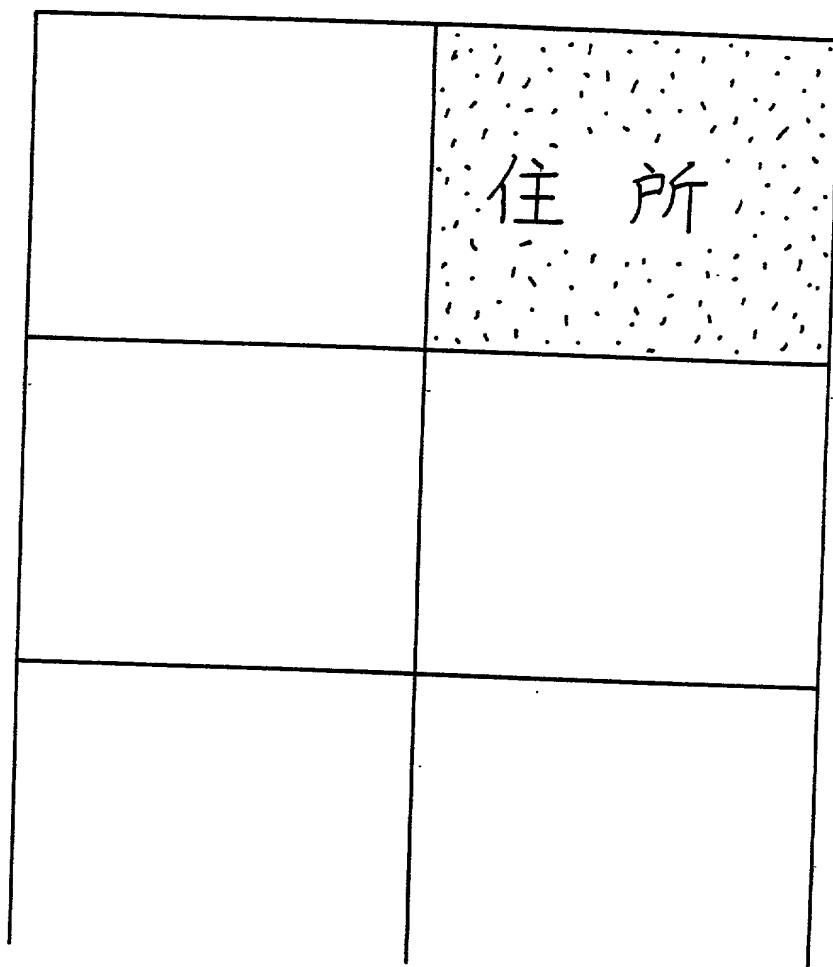


FIG. 1

FIG. 2

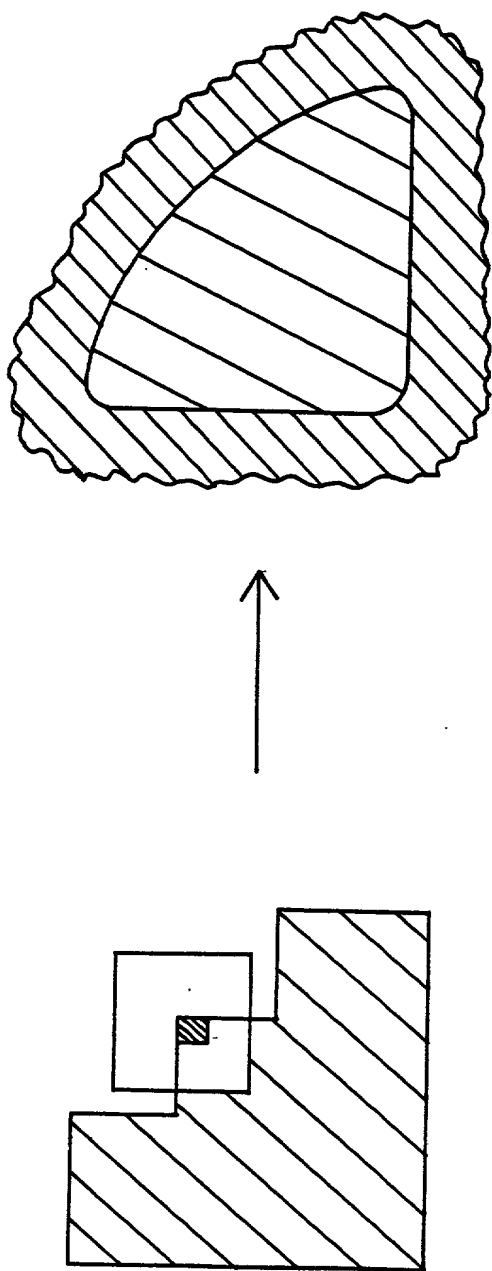
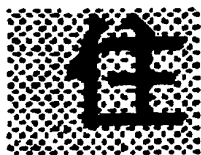


FIG. 3



ORIGINAL IMAGE (a)



IMAGE OBTAINED BY ELIMINATING A HALF-TONE DOT, THE SIZE OF WHICH IS SMALLER THAN A SPECIFIC VALUE ACCORDING TO THE PRIOR ART (b)



IMAGE OBTAINED BY ELIMINATING BOTH HALF-TONE DOTS AND PROJECTIONS ACCORDING TO THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT (c)

FIG. 4

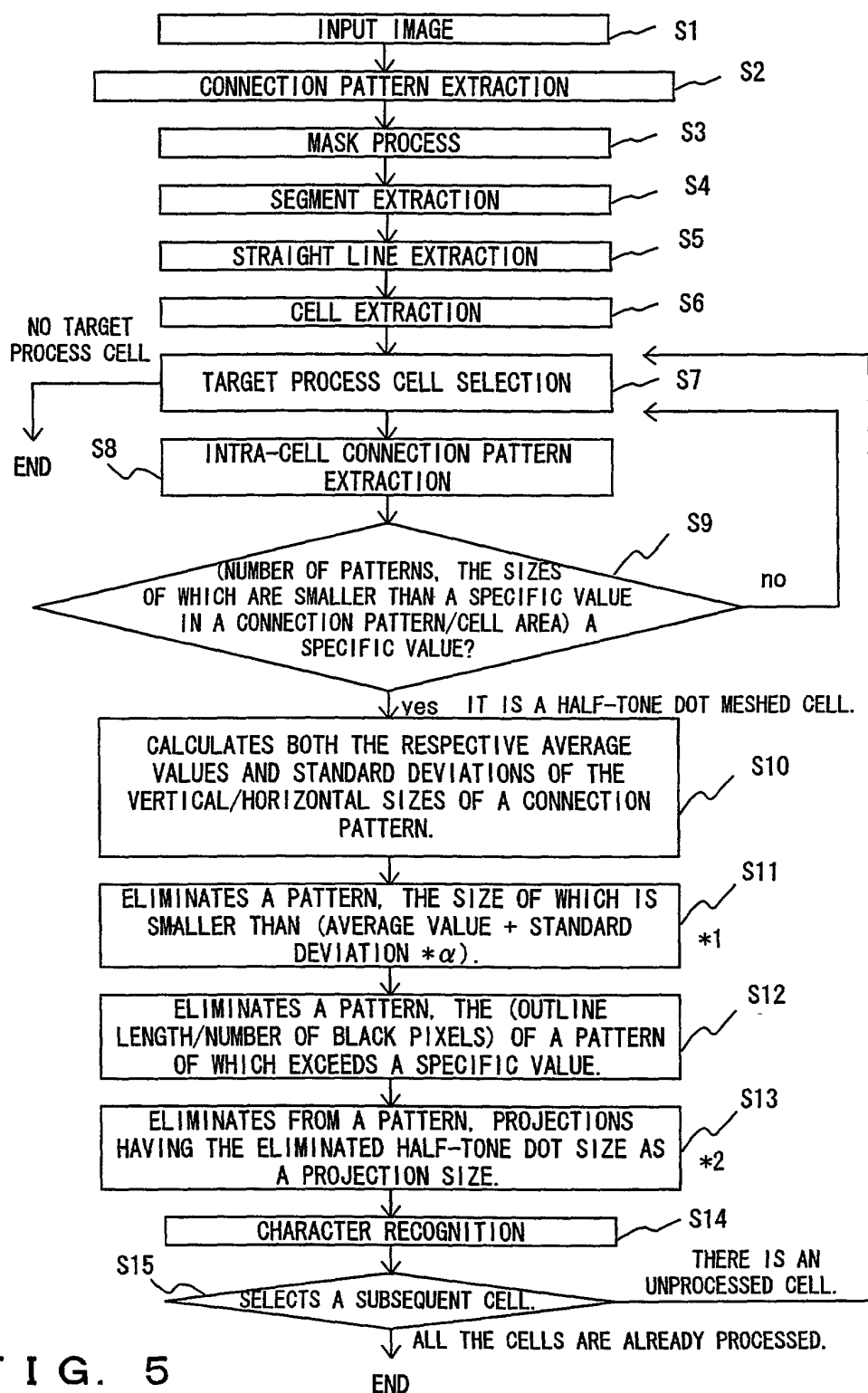


FIG. 5

*1 ALTERNATIVELY, THE TROUGH OF THE HISTOGRAMS OF PATTERN SIZES CAN BE SET AS A THRESHOLD VALUE AND A PATTERN, THE SIZE OF WHICH IS SMALLER THAN THE THRESHOLD VALUE, CAN BE ELIMINATED.

*2 ALTERNATIVELY, PROJECTIONS CAN BE ELIMINATED BY A DEGRADATION PROCESS.

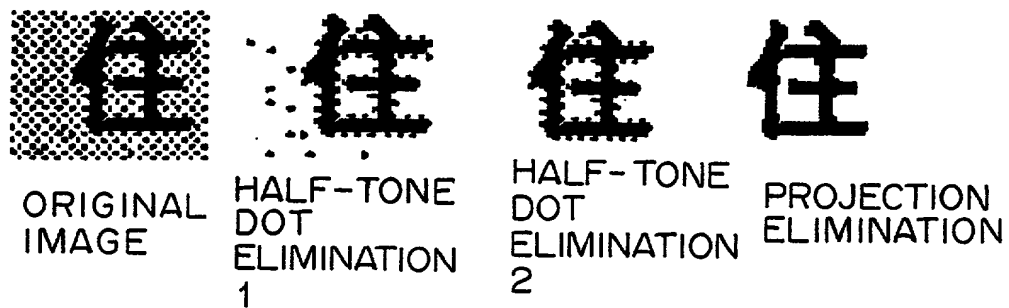


FIG. 6

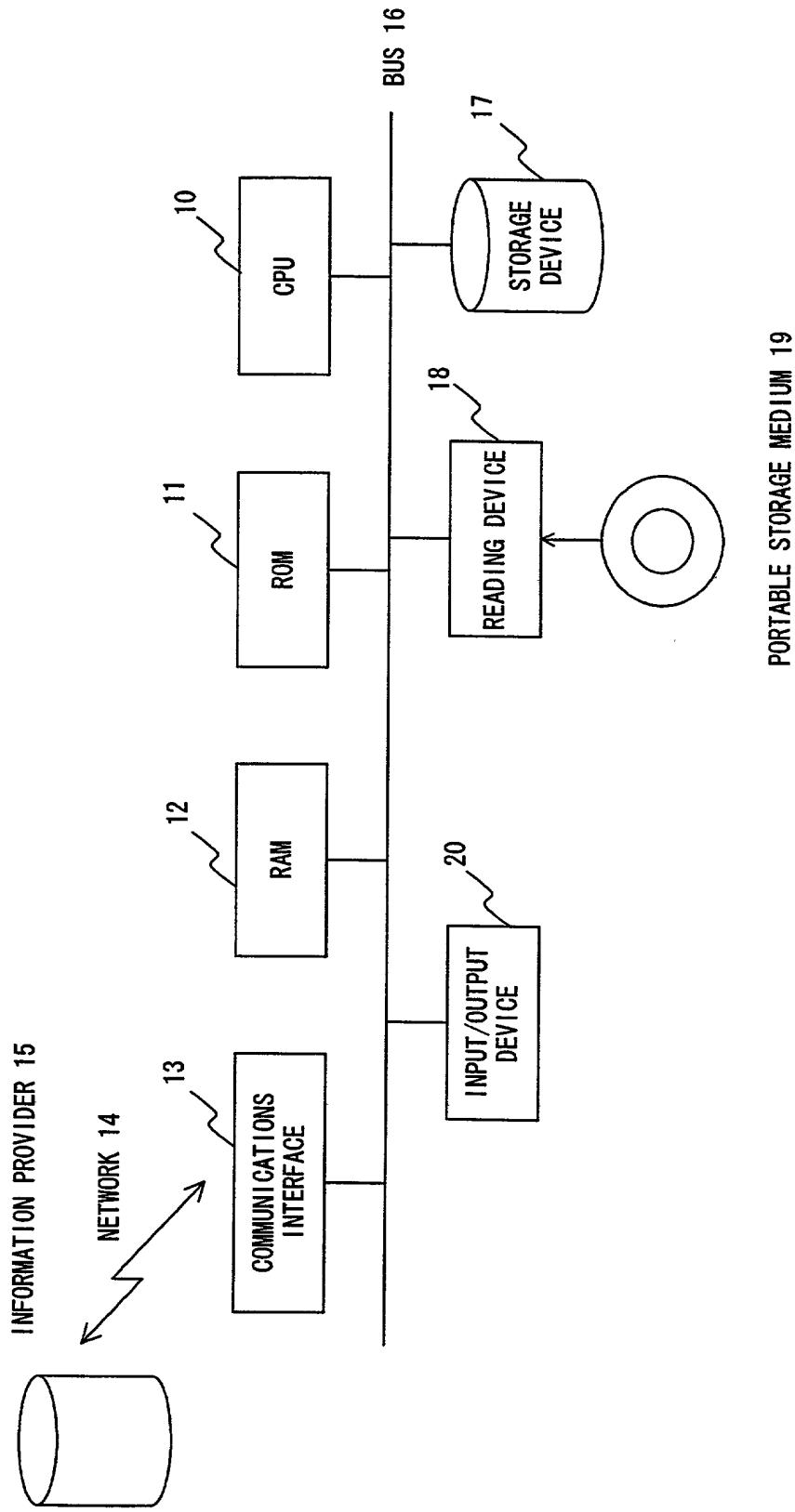


FIG. 7